

TOM LONG,

The CARRIER.



London: Printed and Sold at Symphon's Warehouse in
Stonecutter Street, Fleet-Market.

OF all the Toms that ever yet was nam'd,
There's none like our Tom that is so fam'd
Tom Long, his rare conceits by far exceeds,
Tom Hickathrift, and all his mighty deeds ;
Tom Tram's mad tricks, to every one are known
But greater wonders in this book are shown ;
Tom Thumb's strange wonders too, they seem a
nought,
Compar'd with those which Tom the Carrier
brought ;

Tomas Afs, may pass, but only for his ears ;
For no such jewels as our Tom he wears :
Tom Tell-truth is the froth, but truth to tell,
From all these Toms, Tom Long, doth bear the
bell.

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THE

MERRY CONCEITS

OF

TOM LONG,

THE

CARRIERS.

Being many pleasant Passages and mad
Pranks which he observed in his Travels.

Full of honest Mirth and Delight.

The Nineteenth Edition.

A Sackful of News, here is for your Money,
Come buy it then, 'twill cost you but a Penny.

This book is like unto a looking Glass,
Wherein the wise may look, much more the As,
The wise Men were but seven now we scarce know
So many Fools, the World so wise doth grow,

(41)

THE
MERRY CONCEITS
OF

TOM LONG

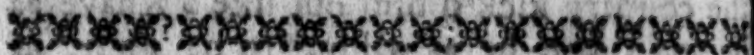
The CARRIER,
CHAP. I.

*How Tom Long at first set up the trade of
being a carrier, and where he took up his
Lodging.*

TOM LONG, the subject of this dis-
course, having spent some few Years
like a wandering Jew, often visiting the
coast of Essex and Kent, where he did ma-
ny notable exploits, sometimes cheating the
Calves heads of their money by the virtue
of Hocus pocus, having learned the art of
Legerdemain; other times, he used as op-
portunity served to rob a hen-roost. At last
his cheating tricks were so well known, that
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the country kick'd him out like a Knave as he was ; and he as willing to be gone, as they were to be rid of him, soon gave three slips for a tester, and travelled towards Gotham, where he well knowing what wit those wise men had in their noddles, took up his abode near the place the men had made a hedge to keep the Cuckow in all the year. Not long after he set up his trade of being a carrier, under pretence of which, he with ease play'd his pranks, and the wisdom of those men were such, that he cheated them all, and yet the fools had no mistrust of him. And having set up, he found great store of small doings ; and above all others, the men of Gotham and Dunstable would employ him ; and being more knave than fool, ever devised some cheating trick or other to gull these Ideots : for let him go ever so full, he would be sure to come home empty, telling them one mischance or other had befallen him. He took up his lodging at the Sign of the Whip and Egg-shell, in Thieving Lane, near Chairing-Cross, where Dunstable men are sure to find him. If not, they may go into Turnagain Lane, and come back as they went in,



C H A P. II.

How Tom Long, the Carrier, met a young Man upon the way, with what happened to them; and how they were entertained by an Hostess.

TOM LONG, being newly set up a Carrier, as he was travelling he happened to take up a young Lad, who had straggled from his Parents to play the truant, which Tom perceiving, entertained him into his service; but they had not gone far before their stomachs were up, so resolved at the next place to take a bait: where as soon as they came, they demanded what was to eat? The Hostess being one of Seldon Cleanly's daughters, said there was nothing but eggs, of which, she said, she could make them a froize. And seeing them come in sharp set, and an empty stomach, she like a slut as she was, resolved to give them their bellies full before they went; and so with some three or four good eggs, she mixed as many bad ones, some add ed and rotten and

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and others ready for to hatch, and having
 set them down on a certain Wash-block,
 which served instead of a table, she set before
 them as good a froize as any woman could
 possibly make of such coarse materials, ma-
 king her sauce alike suitable, being nothing
 but kitchen stuff melted, and a little oil as
 good as ever was burnt. Tom and the
 young lad presently fell to it with stomachs
 as greedy as hogs, swallowing down all by
 wholesale, rag, rag and long tail, without
 any chewing, although they conceited some-
 thing crackled in their teeth like young
 bones, yet hunger which is the best sauce,
 made every morsel sweet, although it had
 but an ill going down with it, and worse
 troubled their patience afterwards. For they
 had no sooner eaten of it, but like squeezey
 stomachs they began to cast backwards and
 forwards: and being in this pitiful pickle,
 they called for their Hostess, who thinking
 to receive her reckoning, was paid in her
 own coin; for having some of their froize
 left, Tom furiously cast it into her face,
 which stuck as fast as plaister to a wall, infor-
 much that for a while she lost her eye-sight,
 which being done, Tom departed without
 paying any thing for his dinner. CHAP.

CHAP. III.

How Tom and his young Man discoursed of their dinner and how they resolv'd to mend the matter at Night, but met with as bad Entertainment.

TOM and his Man being now on their way, began to discourse of their dinner, and how prettily they served their hosts: but still conceited they had heard the young chickens which they had eaten in their froize, cry *peep, peep, peep*, and having cast up all again, their bellies began to cry cupboard; whereupon Tom to comfort his young man, told him, they would be sure to have a good host at night, and good fare too. *But like to like*, quoth the Devil to the Collier: *Out of the frying pan into the fire*. For their new host proved not only a knave, but a thief, and instead of dainty veal provided part of a young Colt, which being foaled before its time, eat very tenderly; and going to supper, the Host, like a flattering knave, told them he would feast them brave-ly

ly; and they not mistrusting any thing, fed most couragiously, having for to please their palates, several kind of dishes made thereof; the Host still crying, you are welcome Gentlemen: all which they swallowed down as greedily as a Lawyer his fee. And having fill'd their ungodly Guts with this supposed good Cheer, they hastened to bed, where the fleas fed as fast on their Corps, as they had done upon this new found Veal, insomuch that they look'd as if they had the small-pox, In the morning thinking to have a breakfast of the same, they mist their Coats and other things, which their host had thievesly deprived them of, for searching the house about they found in a Corner some Flesh, which they supposed to be part of the Veal they had eaten of, but by the ears of the skin which hung by, they saw plainly it was an ass, and that they were once more made fools of; whereupon Tom caused his Host to be apprehended, who was committed to prison about their goods, where Tom left him, and departed.

C H A P.

CHAP. IV.

Tom relates how a certain counterfeit Merchant Cozen'd divers Gentlemen of very great Sums of Money.

IN the north of England arrived a pretended Merchant, but indeed, a very cheating knave, who residing there a while, came to be greatly acquainted with divers Gentlemen, who looked on him as one of great account. At last, he received great sums of money, which he was to pay in London, upon the receipt of which he gave every man a bill of exchange; receiving of some twenty pounds, some thirty, forty, fifty, some a hundred pounds: and having pretty well feathered his nest, he departed beyond the sea, and when the Gentlemen came to receive their money, they could neither find nor hear of their Merchant; whereat they were very much vexed, as well they might be, to see how they were cheated of their money: But their hopes are that they shall have it brought them again by Tom Long the Carrier, C H A P.

C H A P. V.

*Of the great surprize that Tom Long was in:
and how the wise Mayor of Huntington,
stealed on Tom's ragged Colt for Sturgeon.*

TOM LONG having been a Carrier for many Years, grew in great request, and tho' he was not very well beloved yet he was sure to have many customers that he got carriage of, especially Country Farmers, who often used to send tokens by him to their friends, as gammons of bacon, collars of brawn, pies and other good things; and now and then, small pieces of silver from Dunstable Men: All which Tom ever made use of himself, tho' they perceived it not; for by reason they sent it by Tom Long the Carrier, they could never receive any answer but what he brought: Also, all the broken Shopkeepers and decayed Gentlemen sent their creditors debts by Tom long the Carrier.

But it happened that as Tom was going
to

to London, he chanced to be at Hunting-
ton, where putting his Horses to Grass, a-
mongst which he had a young ragged colt;
this colt being stragled down into the river,
certain wise men of the town, who had
been at Gotham, thought it had been a Stur-
geon, and there upon acquainted the right
wisdom fool the Mayor of it, who assem-
bling together his wise brethren, made a very
wise speech to them, and acquainted there-
with, who very unanimously accompanied
his lordship: and after a deep consultation,
they all agreed to sieze the poor colt for a
Sturgeon: But carrying it with great tri-
umph into the town, the inhabitants, who
were wiser then the rest, exceedingly laugh-
ed them to scorn for their folly. And so
Tom promising the Mayor to bring him a
piece of Sturgeon at his return, he had his
Colt again.

which Tom ever made use of him-
self they perceived it not; for by reason they
lent it by Tom along the Carrer, they could
never receive any answer but what he
said, who, all the broken shopkeepers
and decayed Gentlemen lent their cry-
sters by Tom along the Carrer.
But it happened that as Tom was going

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CHAP. VI.

A story of the seven Sleepers, who slept
above three hundred Years, and never
waked.

IN a great city there lived several men, who
for their religion was forced to fly: And
not far from the city was an ancient cave
under a hill, in which these men entered
to secure and refresh themselves: but their
persecutors hearing where they were, stopt
up the mouth of the cave, intending to sa-
nish them therein; and they not knowing
what was done, soon as they had refreshed
themselves with food, they all went to sleep,
and continued sleeping a very long season:
until such time as in after ages, a shepherd
intending to make himself a harbour, set
divers masons to work, to dig in this cave,
who with the noise, awakened the men who
had been sleeping so long therein. The cave
being opened they thinking it to be Day,
and they had slept but one Night, sent one
of their company privately into the city for
food for all this time they had eat nothing
and

and well they might be a hungry : So coming to the city, he found all things altered, the inhabitants being other kind of people (as they supposed) than they left them the night before. So going to buy some bread, the people refused to take their money, saying they knew not the coin, at which he greatly marvelled. but enquiring he found that since their, being there, three generations had been dead and gone, and a fourth in being ; and by computation of time, it appeared they had slept above three hundred Years, and lay all that time in their cloaths, which were no whit decayed whereat the people wondered, Tom Long the Carrier staying all the time they slept, to see when they would awake, and at last brought the news with him.

CHAP.

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C H A P. VII.

How Tom Long the Carrier sold his Horse for the Skin, supposing him to be dead: and how a crafty Fellow coming by, knew what the Horse ailed and so bought him.

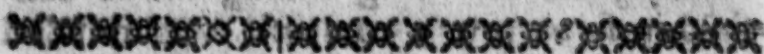
TOM LONG the Carrier travelling on the road, chanced to put his horse in a field that was overgrown with hemlock, which Tom's horse having had no meat all day, eat so greedily on, that it cast him into a sound sleep, that Tom thought he had been dead. Being thus sorely crost, as he supposed, he began to flea his skin off to sell; whereupon, a crafty fellow coming by that way, well knew what the horse ailed, bought him for the price of the skin, and paying Tom the Money he departed; appointing to fetch the horse the very next morning. And when he came on the morrow the horse was awaked out of his sleep, and got upon his legs again; which when Tom perceived, he was sorely vext at his foolish bargain; but his Chapman laughed him to scorn for his folly, and so departed with his horse.

C H A P.

unruly jade, not being willing to be confin'd in so narrow a compass, was minded to see what fare was on the other side of the Hedge, and so foolishly venturing to leap over, hang'd herself: whose untimely death had then nigh broke the heart of Tom Long the Carrier, and his grief was the more, by reason she died without any visitation.

*Tom nine ways looks, and needs must vexed be,
Now bought wit's best Tom Long do plainly see.
Tom tells he's robb'd and counteth all his losses
And is in hopes he shall have no more crosses,
Come Lad all's gone, Tom takes comfort then,
He will be well repaid by other men.
Now many men do Tom Long dispraise,
And says he as small conscience in his ways;
But sure I'll lay no such faults to his charge.
I rather think his conscience was to large.*

CHAP.



C H A P. IX.

How Tom Long the Carrier was assaulted by a Dog; and how valiantly he defended himself, and killed him.

AS Tom Long the Carrier was travelling between Dover and Winchester, he turned to pass something near a house where was kept a mastiff-dog, who so soon as he had espyed Tom, came running open mouth'd at him, and so furiously assaulted him, as if he meant to devour him at a bite. But, Tom having in his hand a good pike-staff, most valiantly defended himself like a man, and to withstand the danger, he thrust the pike end of his staff into his throat, and so killed him. Whereupon, the owner thereof seeing his dog killed, comes earnestly unto Tom, and between threatning and chiding, asked him why he struck him not with the great end of his staff? Marry, quoth Tom, because your Dog ran not at me with his tail.

C H A P.

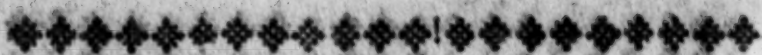


C H A P. X.

*Of the hard Lodging Tom Long the Carrier
found on the Ground, having under him but
one poor Feather.*

TOM LONG, by reason of the great loss of his horses, became very poor and so turn'd Foot-Post; and being in a wearisome Condition, he was forced having not Coin to pay for better (to take up his lodging upon the Ground, where tumbling and tossing, he could hardly rest all night, and stirring himself betimes in the morning, he espied under him one feather, now quoth Tom, I see what was the cause of my trouble that I could not sleep all night: I wonder seeing I found such hard lodging on one feather, how the people do that lie on thousands.

C H A P.



CHAP. XL.

A Certain King kept a Fool to be his Jester, whose manner was to set down in a note-book, which he kept for that purpose, all the follies that he saw committed in or about the court ; or at least, so many as he discover'd. So on a time, a certain Italian Horse-Courser arrived at the court, who professed great skill in Horsemanship ; and it being told the King, he presently sent him with three thousand pounds to buy him horses in a fair country, which this fool hearing of, put down in his note among the rest. When the king heard of that he was much offended, and would needs know of Jack Lackwit, why he had set him down in his Note ? Because, quoth the fool, he will come no more to you. But what if he does come again ? said the King. Why then, said the Fool, I will take you out and put him in.

С Н А Р.

C H A P. XII.

How Tom Long cozened two Shoe-makers of a pair of Shoes.

TOM LONG, being now a foot post, with hard travelling had worn his shoes so thread bare, that he was in great danger to loose soles and all: whereupon Tom came to refresh himself; after which, he sent for a shoe-maker to bring him a pair of shoes. Now Tom having no coin left, resolved to try his wits; so drawing on one of the shoes, it fitted very well; but drawing on the other, he complained that it pinched his Foot and was too low in the instep: whereupon he desired the Shoe-maker to take that home, and let it stand on the last an hour or two, and he would stay so long. As soon as he was gone, Tom pull'd off the other shoe, and sent for another Shoe-maker to bring him a pair of Shoes, which he did; so drawing on one of them on the other foot, he said it pinch'd him likewise: and so wish'd him also to take the shoe home, and let it stand on the last for an hour, and then come again. But the shoe-makers

makers saw the last of their shoes, for when they came again, Tom Long was gone, and left these Verses behind him.

*Whom seek you Sirs, Tom Long? O he upon,
Your tediousness, he's long since gone:
He went a good while since; no question, store,
Are Glad, who next he did not go before,
And some are griev'd he went so soon away:
The reason was, he could no longer stay,
Nor is it a Wonder that he thus is gone,
Since all men knew he long was drawing on.*

C H A P. XII.

Witty conceits of Tom Long the Carrier.

TOM LONG the Carrier, upon a
time ask'd a merry conceited fellow,
which was the best Husband for a young
Wench to have? Marry, quoth the fellow,
an old Man, for then she may be sure to
have enough of them. Another standing
by, asked Tom Long the Carrier, what
trade he thought to be best; Marry quoth
Tom, a cut Purse, for he hath no sooner
done his Work but he hath his money in his
hand.

CHAP.

(23)

CH A P. XIV.

The Conclusion of the merry Conceits of Tom Long the Carrier.

TOM LONG the Carrier coming to an Inn,

Ask'd the Maid what meat there was within ?

Cow-heels, said she, and a fine breast of mutton.

Then said Tom, since that I am no Glutton
Either shall serve, to night I'll have the breast,

The heels in the morning ; then light meat is the best.

At night he took the breast and did not pay
In the morning took his heels and run away
When the worst is past all things begin to mend :

And here the story of Tom Long doth end

F I N I S.

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